

For Immediate Release

Documentary Featuring Indiana Parole Agents Receives National Award

Indianapolis, IN (February 26, 2014) –A documentary series featuring parole agents from the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) has been chosen by the American Correctional Association (ACA) for the 2014 Outstanding Journalism Award. The prestigious award was presented to Jonathan Towers, Executive Producer of Towers Productions, the company behind *Parole Diaries*, at the 2014 ACA Winter Conference in Tampa, Florida earlier this month.



ACA President Christopher Epps and Betty Adams Wooten, Chair of ACA's Correctional Awards Committee, present Jonathon Towers with the Outstanding Journalism Award.

Parole Diaries is a compelling docu-drama that offers an unprecedented look into the lives of parole officers of the Indiana Department of Correction and the parolees they serve. *Parole Diaries* follows nine dedicated parole officers of the Indianapolis Parole District as they tackle their most difficult and heart-wrenching cases.

Upon accepting the award, Jonathan Towers stated, "It's a great honor to receive this award for outstanding journalism from the American Correctional Association. It's terrific to be able to receive it here, in front of all you, because *Parole Diaries* was all about showing America the extraordinary dedication of people who go to work every day in the world of corrections and handle their jobs to the highest standards of public service."

“We are very proud of the unwavering dedication and determination that our Parole staff exhibit in their work,” says IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. “It is a tough job and oftentimes a thankless job, but as shown in *Parole Diaries*, our parole agents truly care about the success of their clients. We hope that through this show, people will have a greater respect for the service these men and women do for the State of Indiana and be inspired to help members of their community in their transition back into society.”

The 13-episode series, produced by Towers Productions, offers a look inside the parole officers’ day. From their desks riddled with necessary paperwork, to field work which often requires they be armed and outfitted in a bullet-proof vest, these agents must be prepared for the unexpected at all times. Viewers will also meet the parolees these officers are dedicated to serve – from the moment they first meet their parole officer, through random drug tests, several evaluations, to surprise home visits – we see the struggles these men and women face to earn a second chance.

“It was our goal with this series to show in real time how parole officers work with parolees, their tough love, their empathy, and their tenacity. This show could only have been produced with the extraordinary cooperation of the Indiana Department of Correction,” added Towers.

The series premiered on TV ONE in September 2012.

About ACA’s Outstanding Journalism Award

Established by ACA’s Public Information Committee, the Outstanding Journalism Award recognizes the editor or news director of a media outlet viewed by ACA as having done the most in the past year to increase public knowledge about correctional issues.

Photo: ACA President Christopher Epps and Betty Adams Wooten, Chair of ACA’s Correctional Awards Committee, present Jonathon Towers with the Outstanding Journalism Award.

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